

Webinar Q&A: Overview of the City of Chicago's Violence Reduction Dashboard

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Who is responsible for keeping the data updated?

The data that powers the dashboard is collected and maintained by the Chicago Police Department (CPD) as part of their routine data collection on crime incidents. The dashboard was initially built by the Crime Lab, but all ongoing maintenance and troubleshooting is handled by CPD.

How were the data definitions in the dashboard's glossary created?

The crime definitions follow the Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) guidelines.

Does this dashboard or its underlying data get fed into the State of Illinois' statewide dashboards or is the data for that collected independently?

The data that powers the dashboard is collected and maintained by CPD as part of its routine data collection on crime incidents. Some of this data is part of CPD's mandated reporting to other agencies, such as the FBI and Illinois State Police. As noted on page 104 of CPD's [2023 Annual Report](#):

"The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program generates statistics that can be used for crime analysis, tracking trends, and resource allocation. In the middle of 2021, CPD began reporting data using the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). This was implemented on a national level to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement. CPD reports crime statistics to the state of Illinois, which in turn reports the data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

Does the dashboard use data that is not available publicly, for example, on the Chicago data portal?

Some of the underlying data that powers the dashboard is not public. For example, CPD records the exact location of incidents, but when the dashboard and data portal displays an address the last two digits are scrambled for privacy reasons.

How did you normalize historical data to align with Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) with National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)?

The data in the dashboard only goes back to 2010 and the crime definitions follow the Illinois UCR guidelines.

Can the dashboard show the availability of non-school youth serving programs in Chicago?

The dashboard includes a high-level overview of city-funded investments in violence prevention under the [Violence Reduction Strategy tab](#). This may include some information about programs which serve youth who may be disengaged from school.

Is there a way via an application programming interface (API) to automatically download the data on a recurring schedule?

Yes. If you go to [this link](#), then click on the "Export" button on the upper-right, you can see API documentation.

Is there any data available on the perpetrators of violence?

The dashboard currently only makes available aggregate data on victims of violence in Chicago. It does not include data on suspects. CPD releases some data on suspects in its [annual report](#).

Is data populated for any entities outside of CPD?

The dashboard only includes data from the city of Chicago, but we'd love for other cities to begin making this type of information publicly available.

Is this a model that can be replicated in other communities?

We'd be excited to see this model replicated in other communities. Everytown for Gun Safety recently released a [step-by-step toolkit](#) for police departments and mayor's offices on how to develop local gun violence data capacity, infrastructure, and

transparency. It's a great resource for communities interested in developing their own local dashboards.

Do local healthcare systems provide any of the underlying data?

Local health systems are not currently providing any of the underlying data for the City of Chicago dashboard. The Illinois Department of Public Health did recently publish a [statewide dashboard](#) which provides detailed information at the county level about firearm injury, including the number and types of incidents (e.g., homicide, suicide), weapon type, and where victims reside.

What are the City of Chicago's clearance rates?

The dashboard does not include data on suspects or arrests. CPD releases some data on suspects in its [annual report](#).

Why does Chicago experience more incidents of violent crime than New York City and Los Angeles? Do we have any hypotheses?

Our Crime Lab faculty director [wrote an op-ed](#) about some of the hypotheses around the divergence between Los Angeles, New York City, and Chicago. This piece provides a data-informed perspective on some of the factors potentially driving this phenomenon.

What is the recency or timeliness of the data? How frequently is it refreshed?

The data on the dashboard is refreshed daily, with the most recent data from about 48 hours behind. Since the data comes from CPD and circumstances can evolve, some incident or victimization details may change as new information comes in. The public datasets utilized by the dashboard are regularly updated to reflect any corrections or additions.

Is there a parallel dashboard showing economic and demographic data, by the same sort ranges? Combining that with the violence data might show root causes and help guide resource distribution.

The City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) has a [dashboard](#) showing some elements of socioeconomics at similar geographic levels as the Violence Reduction Dashboard. Additionally, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has community-area level [snapshots](#) of more extensive socioeconomic data (click [here](#) to see the full CMAP data repository).

Is there any documentation available around the calculated fields used in the workbook?

Details about calculated fields within Tableau workbooks are not publicly available. The [Glossary](#) section offers explanations of a few methods used to transform the data (e.g., “Rolling Average” and “Per 10,000 Residents”).

Is there any plan to expand the dashboard to include information about the firearms used in the victimizations? For example, if it was illegally obtained or where/how it was purchased?

We are not aware of plans to include data on the firearms used in victimizations. The Crime Lab and City of Chicago have published similar analyses in the past which may be of interest:

- [Results of the Chicago Inmate Survey of Gun Access and Use](#)
- [Gun Trace Report 2017](#)
- [Tracing the Guns: The Impact of Illegal Guns on Violence in Chicago](#)

If we use the filters to provide a very specific set of values, can those filter settings be saved and then shared with others while keeping the filters intact?

Unfortunately, the dashboard does not currently support saving or sharing filter settings.

Can you talk more about how you use the Violence Reduction Dashboard for an impact study?

You can use the Violence Reduction Dashboard as a starting point for impact studies by downloading the underlying data from the dashboard via the data portal. Some of the data is tagged to specific geographies, which makes it possible to conduct quasi-experimental analyses—such as regression discontinuity designs.